III

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY then laid on the table a *list of various projects which have been delayed or held up owing to the non-passage of the Irrigation Bill.

IV

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1923-24.

Grant I.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Mr. President, in regard to the first motion which stands in my name I should like with your permission not to move it now, but to withdraw it and give you fresh notice. I may perhaps mention for the information of the House that a doubt has been just brought to my notice as to the precise form in which this motion should be brought forward. I should like to clear that matter before I place it before the House."

With the permission of the House the following motion was not made :—

The Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 17,200 under Land Revenue Department for the grant of special pay to Deputy Collectors employed on settlement work and revision of adangals.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 9,600 under Land Revenue Department for the grant of special pay to officers in charge of parties and to the officer in charge of the Central Survey Office.

" As the House is aware, Sir, it is a matter which has already been under discussion at the last budget. The officers of the survey parties have been in existence for the last 20 years. The necessity for their allowance was explained last year by Sir Habib-ul-lah. He pointed out that every survey party had at least two executive officers of whom one was at the head of the party and that one officer was very much weighed with responsibilities. The fact is, as Sir Habib-ul-lah said, he is in the position practically of a commanding officer with all attendant risks and responsibilities. During the budget debate in the Council last March this allowance was cut out, after a very short debate consisting, if I remember right, of a speech of a few lines by an hon. Member and a very brief reply by the Member in charge. That is as regards the officers in charge of the parties. I may mention that my proposal also covers a similar allowance for the officer in charge of the Central Survey office. That allowance was severely cut out by the Council and the main grounds put forward for their action were that they disapproved in general special allowance and that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee ought to be awaited before the House were asked to consider whether this particular allowance was or was not justifiable. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have now been received. In fact, I may say we have waited until their receipt before bringing this matter before the Council. As the Council is aware, the matter of allowance received very special and very careful consideration from the Retrenchment Committee. They were occupied on this subject from October to March and as a result of their labours the allowances all over the Presidency in every department have been systematised and the Committee have put forward proposals which promises

* Printed as Appendix V on pages 220-221 infra.

to result in a saving of 11 lakhs of rupees. Every single allowance has been examined with the most zealous care and while I do not for a moment suggest to this House that it is bound by the recommendations of the Committee, I think, I may say that greatest consideration is due to the recommendations which are the result of so very exhaustive an inquiry and so much labour; the more so when it is remembered that the Retrenchment Committee consists of a majority of elected Members. I, therefore, venture to suggest that unless there are very strong reasons for differing from the opinion of the Retrenchment Committee it is only right that the House should accept their recommendation and pass this allowance."

The motion was put and carried, and the Grant was made.

Grant VII.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted under Irrigation—

(*i*) *an additional sum of Rs.* 69,730 *under* ' 15. *Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues—in charge of Public Works officers,* ' *for repairs to irrigation works in the Cauvery, Madura, Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly divisions* ; *and*

(*ii*) *an additional sum of Rs.* 44,628 *under* ' *XIII. Works for which capital accounts are kept—Working Expenses* ', *for repairs to irrigation works in the Cauvery delta system* (*Tanjore district*), *and in the Srivaikuntam and Marudur anicut systems* (*Tinnevelly district*).

" It may be asked, Sir, why when the Budget is so near us I have come before this House with this grant. The answer is pretty obvious. Such extensive damage has been wrought in regard to these various irrigation systems owing to the inundations and to the floods which have of late taken place that notwithstanding our desire to get as much as possible by reappropriation we have found ourselves unable to finance the necessary works.

" Let me with your leave, Mr. President, give details of what has been done. In the first place with regard to the Tinnevelly division, for maintenance and repairs, a sum of Rs. 20,000 is asked for. This additional amount is required for the repair of damage caused to the several banks and channels by the heavy floods and in response to the urgent requests of the Superintending Engineer we have authorized him to proceed with the more urgent works in anticipation of the allotment of funds. In the Trichinopoly division a sum of Rs. 10,000 is required. Owing to the extremely adverse character of the season works have had to be carried on a very extensive scale so as to maintain the requisite supply of water in the most important channels. These works were damaged by the heavy floods of December and either they have to be reconstructed or repaired and the total demand that is required under this head was Rs. 21,500. Out of this we propose to meet by reappropriation Rs. 11,500. It is because we cannot get more by reappropriation that we have come to this House for Rs. 10,000 more.

11-30 a.m.

" Then as regards Madura division the additional amount is required for repairing the damage done during the floods and for urgent works of closing the breaches in various banks. Out of a total of Rs. 23,200 that is required, we propose to meet Rs. 15,000 by reappropriation and have come to this House for the balance.

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"The next item is the Cauvery division. The amount is required to meet the liabilities in carrying out urgent works on account of the erosions caused by the heavy floods. Out of a total of Rs. 34,000, a sum of Rs. 22,000 has been allotted by reappropriation.

"As regards works for which capital accounts are kept, all these sums are required for the repair of damages. I may say to this House that so far as we have been able to meet these costs by reappropriation, we have done so. These are all urgent works caused by the unprecedented happenings of the last few months and I am confident that this House will pass this Demand."

The motion was put and carried, and the Grant was made.

V

THE TUTICORIN PORT TRUST BILL.

Clause 8, *sub-clause* (1).

The House then resumed discussion on the amendment to item (*f*), sub-clause (1), clause 8.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. President, I was expressing my surprise and my resentment yesterday at the hon. the Leader of the House having ventured to pour ridicule upon this very reasonable amendment of my hon. Friend, when 4 o'clock intervened. I want to resume at that stage and would like to repeat to this House that this amendment aims very moderately at giving expression to feelings, which I know, are shared by every Indian who values the self-respect of his country and since the last debate on a similar nature, events have happened which must have strengthened those who supported that motion and weakened the sentiments of those who opposed it. I need only mention the Kenya Immigration Bill which wants to carry out such reactionary recommendations that even the Conservative Ministry of Mr. Baldwin had to turn it down and ask the Government to frame a Bill on different lines altogether. They have introduced, Sir, in South Africa a Class Areas Bill designed to hurt Asiatics and Indians in particular. Therefore, all the events which have since happened tend to show that we must give some expression to this feeling of resentment. Then the hon. the Finance Member advanced two arguments which I venture respectfully to answer. First he said 'Australians, South Africans and New Zealanders may not feel the effect of the passing of this amendment.' But may I venture to submit to this House that when a man is being beaten by a bully, unless he is a coward, whatever his strength may be, he hits back with all the strength he can command? I am one of those who feel the injustice done to us and it may be my talk may not be effective but my self-respect demands that I should resent it. I will never assent and I hope the House will never assent to the position that, because India is weak, it must also take every humiliation by not even resenting it.

"Then the final argument of the Leader of the House was 'if you adopt this amendment how are the New Zealanders, the South Africans and the Australians going to know that?' When we discussed the question of the boycott of the British Empire Exhibition which would have been broadcasted all over the Empire and would have made the South Africans, Australians and others sit up and realize that India means business, we were told that for various economic and other considerations we ought not to boycott the British Empire Exhibition. Now, when we are putting forward a small amendment, we are told that it is too small and we can do nothing effective, therefore do